(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The situation in Punjab is under constant review. A number of steps to curb terrorism and to restore peace in the State, including tightening of security measures at the border to check infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition from across the border have been taken. The Prime Minister had announced on March 3, 1989, a package of measures to start the normalisation process in the State. Action has been completed on a number of them, like the release of Jodhpur detenues, withdrawal of cases for objectionable speeches, removal of restrictions imposed on foreigners visiting Punjab, restriction of the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to the worst affected areas, steps to normalise Police functioning and evolving a monitoring mechanism to guard against Police excesses etc. It is also proposed to hold Panchayat elections in the State beginning from the middle of June, 1989. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Punjab has also met leaders of different political parties and groups in Punjab on April 12, 1989.

Fire in Vandana Building in Connaught Place, New Delhi

411. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the multi-storeyd Vandana Building in Connaught Place, New Delhi on the 8th April, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons killed/injured as a result thereof;

(c) what is the estimated loss of property due to this fire;

(d) what are the main causes of the fire;

(e) whether it is also a fact that this is the second incident of Fire in Connaught Place within a very short period; and

(f) if so, what measures are being taken by Government for the safety of the people working in the multistoreyed buildings in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) Rs. 50,000 approximately.

(d) It has not yet been possible to ascertain the cause of fire.

(e) There have been more than one incident.

(f) Notices for compliance of 12 essential fire safety measures have been issued to the defaulting building owners/occupiers of buildings constructed prior to 1983 under Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the rules framed there-under. In respect of buildings constructed after the notification of unified building bye-laws, the issuance of completion certificate has been made subject to the provision of fire safety measures verified by the Chief Fire Officer.

Production of Cloth in the Country

412. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of cloth in the country during the last three years, yearwise and sector wise;

(b) what was the respective perceatage of cotton used in this cloth;

(c) what was the total consumption of cloth in the country during the above period; and

(d) what was the quantum of cloth exported during the last three years yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The total cloth pro-